

(Note: in this book, all the walking maps are grouped in a fold-out map of the entire area)

16 Pontone to Torre dello Ziro

This walk should not be missed: it explores the spectacular promontory that separates Atrani from Amalfi, visits three superb viewpoints, and culminates in a visit to the castle that dominates both towns, the Torre dello Ziro. Here the unfortunate Queen Giovanna d'Aragona lived and was later beheaded. The whole promontory is an enchanting mix of limestone cliffs, pine woods, rockery plants and wild flowers. The paths are well built and are probably unique in the district — being built for leisure, unlike the older work-a-day routes. That is, unless they were built for executioners going about their business... Photographs page 44, 47 and below

Time: 1h round trip; *Grade:* easy, with a height gain of 100m/330ft
Leave the square in Pontone by the arch to the left of the chapel. Turn right immediately, down to the road. Cross diagonally to a chapel. The path continues gently down, past houses, to where the path turns sharp left. [Walk segment 14 goes down here.] Go straight ahead along a narrow path at the edge of a terrace. [After about 50m/yds, the short-cut from Amalfi comes down stone steps from the right; see **Walk segment 6a** (Amalfi to Pontone), option ②.] • The concrete steps leading up to the start of the promontory can be seen ahead. Ascend these to a viewpoint, and then descend a little to a level stretch by a fanciful concrete structure. Three paths lead from here along the promontory. The path down to the left leads directly to the Torre dello Ziro along the left flank of the promontory; at one point, about half-way along, you must descend a number of zigzags. The path straight ahead leads to the second viewpoint. • For the best route, climb to the fourth terrace on the right. Follow this round to the right; it takes you to a wonderful broad flight of stone steps, seemingly suspended in space above Amalfi and the Valley of the Mills. Picnicking at the top of these steps, in sun or shade, is idyllic. Here, and at the second viewpoint 100m/yds further on, there are several

Looking down from the third viewpoint to the Torre dello Ziro and Atrani (Walk segment 16).



Descending from Ravello to Minori (Walk segment 17)



remains of a medieval defensive position. You can now descend to the path on the left; it leads to the third viewpoint — even more vertiginous than the second, but recently rebuilt in an ugly fashion. Retrace your steps a short way from this third viewpoint, and take the downhill path. It brings you quickly to the Torre dello Ziro path, just above the zigzags. • Return along the same paths — high cliffs bar progress in any other direction!

17 Ravello to Minori

In contrast to Walk segment 5 (the 'tourist' route between the two towns), this segment follows little-used paths, mostly past olive terraces. The views across the valley to San Nicola and the mountains beyond are always magnificent. Halfway down there is a perfect picnic site in front of a small chapel, or, if you are seeking shade, another possibility much lower down in a little piazza in the back streets of Minori. Photograph above

Time: 1h10m; *Grade:* easy, with a descent of 400m/1300ft
Follow **Walk segment 8a** (page 47) from Ravello through Lacco to Piazza Andrea Mansi and a chapel. Turn right in front of the chapel, down Via Famiglia d'Afflitto. Soon cross a road and continue ahead, descending for 200m/yds, to a junction where the level path goes ahead to an electricity pylon. • Do *not* go to the pylon; turn down right, after 100m/yds coming to the Casa Rossa. From this house keep to the left, descending steps or contouring, winding through olive groves. When you come to a T-junction with a splendid view of Minori, turn left and continue downhill. After about 200m/yds, a small chapel on the right, bounded by a low wall and seat, makes a lovely grassy picnic area. In late March we saw a bee orchid here. • A succession of steps and level stretches carries you to a slightly rising incline by a green railing. Beyond another level stretch, steps take you down to a T-junction: turn right, keeping to the main path. After another 250m/yds, still descending, now among houses, you come a prominent four-way junction. Turn right on Via Villa Amena, after 200m/yds coming to a shady piazza in front of two chapels, with ♣ and seating. Continue to a motor road; cross half-left and go on to enter Minori at a T-junction of alleys. Turn right for the Roman villa and sea-front.